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SOVIET PLAN TO ESTABLISH
ANOTHER ARCTIC DRIFT STATION

The Soviets have now firmed up their earlier plans to establish another Arctic drift station, NP-13, early in April 1964, about 700 kilometers north of Cape Schmidt. The new station will replace NP-10 which has become reduced in size, and is now less than 200 kilometers from the North Pole and 1,000 kilometers distant from its nearest land-fall, Severnaya Zemlya. A new staff of 17 for NP-12 has already departed Moscow on 17 March 1964 for its staging area on Tiksi Bay. From here, the staff will be flown 1,200 kilometers north of Vrangeli Island to NP-12, headed by F. N. Kudryavtsev, a physical oceanographer, who in 1962-63 was the USSR exchange scientist on the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research vessel, the Eltanin.

The new drift station launching is a part of this year's first phase of the annual Soviet Arctic High Latitude Expedition, Sever-16--also called Sever-64--which has been described by a Soviet source as the largest ever launched in the history of Soviet Arctic exploration. Over 1,000 tons of freight will be delivered by air, and over 1,000 landings will have to be made on drifting ice. In addition to the delivery of new staffs and supplies, automatic meteorological stations will be set up and scientific teams at temporary bases will be established on ice. The first of these has already been set up in the center of the Laptev Sea. Others will be landed in the Kara, Chukchi, and East Siberian Seas. A comprehensive observational program will be undertaken ranging from the ocean bottom to the upper atmosphere, and will serve the needs of weather and ice forecasting for Northern Sea Route and other operations, as well as provide data for basic environmental research.

Sources:

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